



H.R. 3336 – Camp Hale Study Act

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 3336 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Doug Lamborn (R-CO) on August 2, 2007. The House Natural Resources Committee agreed to the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent on July 29, 2008.

H.R. 3336 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 22, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 3336 directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a resource study of Camp Hale, located in Colorado, to determine the feasibility of designating the Camp as a separate unit of the National Park System. The study is to have no effect on any existing local, State, or Federal water rights. The Secretary is required to report to Congress on the results of the study within three years of funds being made available to carry out H.R. 3336.

BACKGROUND

Camp Hale was established as a winter and mountain warfare training ground during World War II. The Camp is located in west-central Colorado, and provides trainees with several natural terrains which include large, flat valley bottoms surrounded by steep hillsides ideal for training in combat skiing, rock climbing, and cold climate survival. In addition to soldier training, the Army has used the Camp to test a variety of weapons and equipment and the Central Intelligence Agency used the Camp for covert training operations. As a result of the weapons testing conducted at the Camp, potentially hazardous munitions have been left in areas of Camp Hale. Today, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working to safely remove and clean up these materials.

In 1966, Camp Hale was deactivated from military training use and control of the land was turned over to the Forest Service. In 1992, Camp Hale was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and is currently part of the White River and San Isabel National Forests. [Camp Hale website](#)

COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that “conducting the required study would cost less than \$500,000 over the next three years.” [CBO cost estimate for H.R. 3336](#)

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at 6-2302.